

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: UNCTAD, EGEN, TGEN

SUBJECT: UNCTAD WORKING PARTY ON PROGRAM BUDGET:
TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

REF: (A) STATE 89689; (B) GENEVA 2693

1. US DELEGATION TO SUBJECT MEETING SHOULD BE GUIDED BY
THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS ON PROPOSED UNCTAD 1976-77
BIENNIUM BUDGET FOR TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY (TOT). NOTHING
IN THESE INSTRUCTIONS SUPERSEDES THE GENERAL U.S. POSITION
ON THE UN PROGRAM BUDGET; THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE INTENDED
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TO GUIDE THE DELEGATION SPECIFICALLY ON PROPOSALS FOR

ALLOCATION OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR UNCTAD'S TOT PROGRAMS.

2. THE TDB AT ITS 14TH SESSION APPROVED THE FORMATION OF A PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, AND OF TWO GROUPS OF EXPERTS, ONE ON TOT AND THE SECOND ON PATENT SYSTEMS. THE TDB ACTION INCLUDED THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE (TD/B/528, ANNEX I, DECISION 117) AND A FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS STATEMENT (TD/B.XIV/SC.I/L.2). THE U.S. SUPPORTED THE BASIC PREMISE UPON WHICH THE COMMITTEE WAS FORMED. IT IS THE USG POSITION THAT THE BUDGET REQUIRED TO PERFORM THE FUNCTIONS OF THE

COMMITTEE, AS SPELLED OUT IN THE TERMS OF REFERENCE, SHOULD BE SUPPORTED WITHIN AVAILABLE UN PROGRAM FUNDS.

3. THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE STATE THAT UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION AND OVERLAPPING OF WORK SHOULD BE AVOIDED. THE DELEGATION IS REFERRED TO ITEM 11 OF DECISION 117 OF THE TDB WHICH REFERS TO THE PRIME RESPONSIBILITIES AND COORDINATION ROLE OF ECOSOC AND THE UN COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD). WITH THIS IN MIND, THE USDEL SHOULD OPPOSE ANY INCREASE IN UNCTAD'S BUDGET FOR TOT PROGRAMS WHICH (1) ARE NOT CLEARLY CALLED FOR IN THE TERMS OF REFERENCE, (2) COULD BE DUPLICATIVE OF EXISTING ACTIVITIES, OR (3) ARE SIMPLY TOO COSTLY IN TERMS OF THE OVERALL BUDGET. THE USDEL SHOULD SUPPORT THE MINIMUM BUDGET NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE EXISTING ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON TOT.

4. SECTION 11 OF THE UN PROGRAM BUDGET CALLS FOR AN APPROXIMATE 20 PERCENT INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR TOT, THREE (3) ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY EMPLOYEES, AND ONE (1) ADDITIONAL GENERAL SERVICES EMPLOYEE. THE BRIEF NARRATIVE IN SUPPORT OF THIS SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IS VERY UNCLEAR AS TO WHAT ACTIVITIES JUSTIFY SUCH AN EXPENDITURE, ESPECIALLY THE QTE CREATION OF INSTITUTIONAL MACHINERY UNQTE. THE USDEL SHOULD OPPOSE AN INCREASE OF THIS MAGNITUDE ON THE FOLLOWING GROUNDS:
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-- (A) DUPLICATION. PROPOSALS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, INFORMATION GATHERING AND OTHER UNSPECIFIED INSTITUTIONAL MACHINERY ARE LIKELY TO OVERLAP EXISTING ACTIVITIES. THE USDEL SHOULD REFER TO OUR POSITION PAPER ON TOT OF APRIL 16 WHICH RELATES TO UNIDO'S MEETING OF ITS IDB-IX (HAND-CARRIED BY DICK HINES) FOR A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF EXISTING UNIDO AND WIPO ACTIVITIES. ALSO, THE UN CSTD

AND ECOSOC ARE, IN OUR VIEW, THE BEST FORA FOR COORDINATION AND QTE ELABORATION OF PROPOSALS AT THE INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS UNQTE. LASTLY, PROGRAMS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AND TRAINING ARE ONGOING AT THE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS (OECD, OAS, THE U.S. NATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE, ETC).

-- (B) CODE OF CONDUCT AND SETTLING OF DISPUTES.

ALTHOUGH NOT SPECIFIED, THERE IS THE INFERENCE THAT AN EXPANDED BUDGET LOOKS TOWARD THE CREATION OF MACHINERY TO IMPLEMENT A LEGALLY BINDING CODE OF CONDUCT. SINCE THE U.S. OPPOSES AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT OF THIS

NATURE, WE WOULD OPPOSE ANY MACHINERY OF THIS DESCRIPTION.

-- (C) THE LIMITS ON THE OVERALL UN BUDGET PROGRAMME, AND THE U.S. POSITION TOWARDS IT, PRECLUDES AN INCREASE OF THIS SIZE IN THE TOT FIELD.

-- (D) GIVEN THESE OBJECTIONS TO SIZABLE INCREASES IN THE TOT BUDGET, THE USDEL COULD EITHER PROPOSE OR SUPPORT A PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD CALL ON THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT TO CAREFULLY DOCUMENT EXACTLY WHAT NEW PROGRAMS ARE DESIRED, INCLUDING DETAILS OF ANY NEW MACHINERY OR ACTIVITIES. KISSINGER

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